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**1993/11/06**

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CHANNEL: n/a

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ACTION EAP-01

INFO	LOG-00	ACDA-17	AID-01	AMAD-01	CIAE-00	C-01	OASY-00
	DODE-00	EB-01	HA-09	H-01	TEDE-00	INR-00	IO-16
	L-03	ADS-00	NSAE-00	NSCE-00	OIC-02	PA-01	PRS-01
	P-01	SIL-00	SP-00	SR-00	SS-00	STR-16	TRSE-00
	USIE-00	RPE-01	CORE-00	/073W			

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P 060353Z NOV 93  
FM AMEMBASSY BEIJING  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6295  
INFO AMCONSUL SHANGHAI  
AMCONSUL GUANGZHOU  
AMCONSUL SHENYANG  
AMCONSUL HONG KONG  
AMCONSUL CHENGDU

DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
 RELEASE  DECLASSIFY  
 EXCISE  DECLASSIFY EO Citations  
 DENY IN PART

FOIA Exemptions  
PA Exemptions  
 CLASSIFY as ( )S or ( )C Sec.  
 DOWNGRADE TS to ( )S or ( )C

CONFIDENTIAL BEIJING 040186

E.O. 12356: DECL:OADR  
TAGS: PHUM, CH  
SUBJECT: UPDATE ON PENDING TRIAL OF BEIJING 16

REF: BEIJING 34687

1. CONFIDENTIAL -- ENTIRE TEXT.  
/
2. THE TRIAL OF THE 16 DISSIDENTS ARRESTED JUST PRIOR  
TO JUNE 4, 1992 FOR FORMING A COUNTERREVOLUTIONARY  
ORGANIZATION HAS BEEN POSTPONED, ACCORDING TO A WESTERN  
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JOURNALIST WHO SPOKE TO THE WIFE OF ONE OF THE  
DEFENDANTS (STRICTLY PROTECT BOTH SOURCES.) THE CASE  
HAS REPORTEDLY BEEN RETURNED TO THE PROCURATOR'S OFFICE  
BY THE COURT BECAUSE OF "INSUFFICIENT EVIDENCE." THE  
TWO PROSECUTORS ON THE CASE HAVE ALSO BEEN REASSIGNED  
TO LONG-TERM TRAINING. ONE OF THE DEFENDANTS IS  
REPORTEDLY OUT ON MEDICAL PAROLE.

- /
3. THE JOURNALIST ALSO **UNCLASSIFIED** SOURCE HAD INFORMED

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HIM THAT THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE APPROVED A DIRECTIVE IN LATE SEPTEMBER AT THE URGING OF VICE PREMIER AND FOREIGN MINISTER QIAN QICHEN TO TAKE A "SOFTER ATTITUDE" TOWARD POLITICAL CASES, INCLUDING THE BEIJING 16, BECAUSE OF THE "FOREIGN POLICY IMPLICATIONS."

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4. COMMENT: ASSUMING THIS INFORMATION IS CORRECT, CHINESE AUTHORITIES SEEM TO BE SEARCHING FOR PROCEDURAL REASONS TO AVOID THIS PARTICULAR "HOT POTATO" OF A CASE, WHICH COULD DAMAGE IF NOT DERAIL IMPROVING RELATIONS WITH THE UNITED STATES AND MAKE NEXT YEAR'S MFN DECISION EVEN MORE DIFFICULT.

ROY

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\*\*\* Current Handling Restrictions \*\*\* n/a  
\*\*\* Current Classification \*\*\* CONFIDENTIAL

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